

**GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**

Friday, September 8, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

For years, leaders across the country have been talking about the need to diversify their states' economies.

But for all the talk ... there hasn't been much action.

Here in Michigan, we are not only talking the talk, we're walking the walk.

This week, the first awards from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs Fund were handed out. 61 companies, entrepreneurs, non-profit and research institutions will receive more than \$100 million to develop cutting edge technologies and create more than 3,000 jobs right here in Michigan.

This is an investment in our future that is unmatched in our state's history and unmatched by any other state in the nation.

The companies receiving state funding are from communities around our state and across our country. And they've got to come to Michigan. They are researching life-saving medicines, converting agricultural products and waste to energy, building pollution-free engines, developing new technologies for our military and much more.

In return for our investment, these companies are committed to building, growing, and expanding in Michigan.

And this is just round one ... only the beginning.

We will invest \$2 billion over 10 years to diversify our economy and create jobs that will keep our kids here in Michigan.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs Fund is just one part of my comprehensive plan to grow Michigan's economy. I'll go anywhere and do anything to bring jobs to Michigan.

And so another piece of good news is that United Solar Ovonic announced this week that it will build a second plant in Greenville, Michigan. A plant that will produce high-tech solar panels creating another 200 jobs in a community that was devastated when its Electrolux plant moved to Mexico.

And yet another piece of good news this week was that the Toyota Tech Center being built in Washtenaw County broke ground. Toyota will hire 400 workers for their state-of-the-art facility.

Toyota's decision to build their R&D headquarters here helps to secure Michigan's position as the global leader in automotive research and development. Last year, more than \$10 billion was spent on automotive R&D in Michigan – more than all 49 other states, and Mexico, and Canada combined.

Yes, it's been a busy week, but an exciting week for Michigan. And it's all part of my Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow economic plan.

My Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow economic plan is an ongoing effort to transform Michigan's economy and we're starting to see that it's paying dividends for companies, communities, and workers all across our state.

Thank you for listening.